GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3524
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
LOSSES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCES
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post harvesting loss of agricultural produce in the country ranges from ten percent to forty percent;

(b) if so, whether the said loss has been brought down in the previous years;

(c) if so, the decline registered in the post harvesting losses of wheat, rice, fruits and vegetables; and

(d) the extent of the post harvesting loss targeted to be brought down in terms of perecentage of the above agriculture produce in the next ten years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. A High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storages and Storages constituted by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has estimated that 25% to 30% of fruits and vegetables and 8 to 10 percent of food-grains are lost annually due to lack of post harvest technology, transport, storage and marketing facilities.

(b): For certain commodities like Paddy, Wheat, Jowar and Bajra, the post harvest losses at farm level have been brought down in the previous years.

(c): As per the study conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), the decline registered in the post harvest losses are as follow:-

1. Paddy	1972-73	4.34%	1998-99	2.70%
2. Wheat	1973-74	5.00%	-do-	1.78%
3. Jowar	1974-75	6.02%	-do-	2.20%
4. Bajra	1974-75	2.17%	-do-	1.89%

There are no recent studies on post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables.

(d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research has targeted to reduce post harvest losses in agricultural commodities to half of the present losses in the next ten years.